

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 57-116 are pending in the application, with 57, 76, 79, 105, and 111 being the independent claims. Claims 1-56 are sought to be cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. New claims 57-116 are sought to be added. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested. These new claims are supported by claims 1-56 as originally filed and by the specification as originally filed, as specifically set forth below.

New independent claim 57 is supported by original claim 35. Claims 58-62 are supported by original claims 38, 39, and 50, and the alloying elements recited in claim 60 are disclosed in paragraphs 35 and 70 of the application as originally filed. Claim 63 is supported by original claim 44. Claims 64-66 are supported by original claims 36 and 40, and by paragraph 65 of the application as filed. Claims 67 and 68 are supported by original claim 42. Claims 69-73 are supported by paragraph 68 of the application as originally filed. Claims 74 and 75 are supported by original claim 43.

New independent claim 76 is supported by original claims 35 and 45, and paragraph 68 of the application as filed. Claims 77 and 78 are supported by paragraph 68 of the application as filed.

New independent claim 79 is supported by original claims 35 and 46. Claims 80-86 are supported by original claims 58-64. Claims 87 and 88 are supported by original claim 46. Claims 89 and 90 are supported by paragraph 71 of the application as filed. Claims 91 and 92 are supported by original claims 42. Claim 93 is supported by paragraph 68 of the application as

filed. Claims 94-97 and 99 are supported by paragraph 68 of the application as originally filed. Claim 98 is supported by original claims 45 and 57, and paragraph 68 of the application as filed. Claims 100-102 are supported by paragraph 68 of the application as filed. Claims 103 and 104 are supported by original claim 43.

New independent claim 105 is supported by original claims 35 and 52-54. Claims 106-110 are supported by original claims 38, 39, and 50, and paragraphs 35 and 70 of the application as originally filed.

New independent claim 111 and claims 112-116 are supported by original claims 35 and 52-54.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, the Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to claims 40-43 for various informalities. The Applicants submit that the cancellation of claims 40-43 renders these objections moot, and that new claims 57-116 do not warrant any similar objections.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 101

The Examiner rejected claim 52 under 35 U.S.C. § 101. The Applicants submit that the cancellation of claim 52 renders this rejection moot, and that none of the new claims 57-116 are deficient under 35 U.S.C. § 101.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner rejected claim 52 under 35 U.S.C. § 112. The Applicants submit that the cancellation of claim 52 renders this rejection moot, and that none of the new claims 57-116 are deficient under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 35-44 and 47-53 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as allegedly anticipated by one or more of Research Disclosure 439070; U.S. Pat. No. 6,391,476; U.S. Pat. No. 6,383,661; U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 2001/0040180; U.S. Pat. No. 6,596,413; U.S. Pat. No. 6,503,640; and U.S. Pat. No. 6,379,818. The cancellation of the rejected claims renders the rejections moot. The Applicants submit that the subject matter of new claims 54-116 is not anticipated by any of the cited art.

New independent claim 57 and its dependent claims 58-75 are directed to an article of manufacture with a bonding layer consisting of metals that do not include zinc or tin. Such an article of manufacture is not disclosed or suggested by the prior art.

New independent claim 76 and its dependent claims 77-78 are directed to an article of manufacture with a bonding layer comprising nickel. The Examiner noted on page 9 of paper no. 9, paragraph 26, that the prior art does not disclose or suggest the use of a nickel and lead bonding layer with a nickel braze-promoting layer. The subject matter of claims 76-78 is likewise not disclosed or suggested by the prior art.

New independent claim 79 and its dependent claims 80-104 are directed to an article of manufacture with duplex braze-promoting layers. The Examiner noted on page 9 of paper no. 9, paragraph 26, that the prior art does not disclose a tin or zinc bonding layer under a braze-promoting duplex coating comprising an inner layer of lead and nickel or bismuth and nickel combined with a nickel outer layer. The subject matter of claims 79-104 is likewise not disclosed or suggested by the prior art.

New independent claim 105 and its dependent claims 106-110 are directed to a method for forming a brazed assembly and involve the article of manufacture of claim 57. Thus, the brazing product used in the method of claims 105-110 has a bonding layer consisting of metals that do not include zinc or tin, which is not disclosed or suggested by the prior art. The method of claims 105-110 is thus also not disclosed or suggested by the prior art.

New independent claim 111 and its dependent claims 112-116 are directed to a method of forming a brazed assembly and involve the article of manufacture of claim 79. Thus, the brazing product used in the method claims 111-116 has duplex braze-promoting layers not disclosed or suggested by the prior art. The method of claims 111-116 is thus also not disclosed or suggested by the prior art.

The subject matter of new claims 57-116 is not disclosed or suggested by the prior art. The Applicants thus respectfully request that the prior art rejections be withdrawn, and that claims 57-116 be allowed.

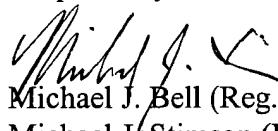
Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Applicants believe that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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